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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,018	01/15/2002	William Kress Bodin	AUS920010853US1	5704
34533	7590	10/06/2005	EXAMINER	
INTERNATIONAL CORP (BLF) c/o BIGGERS & OHANIAN, LLP P.O. BOX 1469 AUSTIN, TX 78767-1469			LEZAK, ARRIENNE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2143	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/047,018

Applicant(s)

BODIN ET AL.

Examiner

Arrienne M. Lezak

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/19/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15 & 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over extensive consideration of US Patent 6,092,114 to Shaffer.

3. Regarding Claims 1, 8 & 15, Shaffer discloses a system, method and computer program for email administration comprising the steps of:

- receiving in a transcoding gateway from a client device one or more email display status attributes describing one or more email display capability statuses for a domain, (Col. 2, lines 30-65 & Col. 6, lines 31-53);
- receiving in the transcoding gateway from a sender an email display capability status request for the domain, wherein the capability status request comprises a domain identification, (Col. 6, lines 6-67 & Col. 7, lines 1-38), (Examiner notes that Shaffer discloses a message sent by a sender to the server where a determination is made based on client capabilities, wherein said message would obviously be a default means of requesting capability status, especially in light of the fact that Shaffer discloses a capability status determination, a conversion means, and a notification to sender means, all related to the ability of the client/target

device to receive the sender's message, and wherein the sender is notified of a client's inability to receive the message based on conversion requirements, which requirements are obviously an indication of the client/domain ability/capability to receive the sender's message.

Additionally, the motivation to request client capability is also found within Shaffer which teaches the need for files to be accessible to the client device as well as a conversion consideration, wherein both conversion time and data loss are important access file/sharing issues, (Col. 1, lines 55-67 & Col. 2, lines 1-27));

- finding, in dependence upon the domain identification, at least one email display capability status record for the domain, wherein the email display capability status record for the domain comprises at least one of the email display capability status attributes, (Col. 6, lines 6-67 & Col. 7, lines 1-38), (Examiner notes that Shaffer discloses wherein if an attachment does not need conversion, it is transmitted to the client/target. Moreover, Shaffer teaches a checking, determining and converting process, wherein the client does not intervene with the same, and wherein the client/target email display capability status attributes are determinative of the need for sender notification and/or conversion); and
- sending at least one of the email display capability status attributes to the sender, (Col. 6, lines 6-67 & Col. 7, lines 1-38), (Examiner notes that Shaffer teaches sender notification concerning conversion requirements,

which conversion requirement obviously represent client/target display capability status attributes).

Thus, Claims 1, 8 & 15 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Shaffer.

4. Regarding Claims 4, 11 & 18, Shaffer is relied upon for those teachings noted herein. Shaffer further discloses:

- receiving an email in a transcoding gateway, the email comprising an email address and at least one digital object, (Claims 1-20);
- determining, in dependence upon display capability attributes and the email address, whether the digital object is to be transcoded in the transcoding gateway, wherein the determining results in a determination, (Col. 5, lines 65-67; Col. 6; & Col. 7, lines 1-38);
- forwarding the email, including the digital object, to the email address, if the determination is that the digital object is not to be transcoded in the transcoding gateway, (Col. 5, lines 65-67; Col. 6; & Col. 7, lines 1-38); and
- if the determination is that the digital object is to be transcoded in the transcoding gateway, carrying out the further steps of transcoding the digital object into a transcoded digital object; and downloading the transcoded digital object to a destination client device, (Col. 5, lines 65-67; Col. 6; & Col. 7, lines 1-38).

Thus, Claims 4, 11 & 18 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Shaffer.

5. Regarding Claims 5, 12 & 19, Shaffer is relied upon for those teachings noted herein. Shaffer further discloses:

- transcoding the digital object further comprises transcoding the digital object into a digital file having a digital format and a file name, (Col. 5, lines 65-67; Col. 6; & Col. 7, lines 1-38); and
- downloading the transcoded digital object further comprises downloading the digital file to a destination client device at an internet address recorded in an Internet address field of a client device record, the client device record having recorded in a mailbox address field in the client device record, a mailbox address identical to the email address of the email message, (Col. 2, lines 30-67; Col. 3; Col. 4, lines 1-65; Col. 5, lines 65-67; Col. 6; & Col. 7, lines 1-38), (Examiner notes that Shaffer clearly teaches a message server with a universal register/lookup table/database and access control/user verification functionality, wherein an email address generally clearly and obviously reads upon an Internet address having a mailbox address identical to an email address); and
- recorded in a digital file format code field of the client device record, a digital file format code indicating that the client device represented by the client device record is capable of receiving the digital format of the digital file, (Col. 2, lines 30-67; Col. 3; Col. 4, lines 1-65; Col. 5, lines 65-67; Col. 6; & Col. 7, lines 1-38), (Examiner notes that Shaffer clearly teaches an

access capability determination as well as multimedia attachments which are well-known to be digital in format, (Col. 1, lines 16-23).

Thus, Claims 5, 12 & 19 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Shaffer.

6. Regarding Claims 6, 13 & 20, Shaffer is relied upon for those teachings noted herein. Shaffer further discloses wherein determining in dependence upon display capability attributes and the email address, whether the digital object is to be transcoded in the transcoding gateway, further comprises finding a capability record having a connection address equal to the email address, (Col. 2, lines 30-67; Col. 3; Col. 4, lines 1-65; Col. 5, lines 65-67; Col. 6; & Col. 7, lines 1-38). Thus, Claims 6, 13 & 20 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Shaffer.

7. Regarding Claims 7, 14 & 21, Shaffer is relied upon for those teachings noted herein. Shaffer further discloses wherein forwarding the email further comprises forwarding the entire email, including the digital object, to an email client in another transcoding gateway in a client device, (Col. 2, lines 30-67; Col. 3; Col. 4, lines 1-65; Col. 5, lines 65-67; Col. 6; & Col. 7, lines 1-38). Thus, Claims 7, 14 & 21 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Shaffer.

8. Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of US Patent 6,092,114 to Shaffer in view of US Patent 5,339,361 to Schwalm.

9. Regarding Claims 2, 9 & 16, Shaffer is relied upon for those teachings noted herein. Though Shaffer discloses an email administration system inclusive of access control, (Shaffer – Col. 1, lines 58-62), Shaffer does not specifically disclose wherein the email display capability status request includes a sender identification identifying the sender, and the method further comprises determining, in dependence upon the sender identification, that the sender is authorized to send email to a connection address in the domain. Schwalm specifically teaches a sender verification functionality, (Schwalm – Abstract & Fig. 2), wherein it would have been obvious to incorporate a sender verification means into the Shaffer system for purposes of providing controlled access and transmission/receipt confirmation by authorized parties, (Schwalm – Col. 1, lines 14-52), within an email system which already requires user verification like that of Shaffer, and wherein it would have been obvious to augment the Shaffer controlled access means by implementing sender verification as well. Thus, Claims 2, 9 & 16 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Shaffer and Schwalm.

10. Regarding Claims 3, 10 & 17, Shaffer and Schwalm are relied upon for those teachings noted herein. Schwalm further discloses wherein determining that the sender is authorized to send email to a connection address in the domain further comprises sending in dependence upon the sender identification and in dependence upon the domain identification, at least one sender authorization record, (Col. 1, lines 14-67; Col. 2, lines 1-15; & Claims 1-23), wherein:

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- the sender authorization record represents authorization for the sender to send email to a connection address in the domain, (Col. 1, lines 14-67; Col. 2, lines 1-15; & Claims 1-23);
- the sender authorization record comprises sender authorization attributes including a connection address in the domain, (Col. 1, lines 14-67; Col. 2, lines 1-15; & Claims 1-23), (Examiner notes that in light of Shaffer, the sender record obviously includes connection addresses of those domains where the sender is authorized to transmit data/email for purposes of transmission verification); and
- finding at least one email display capability record for the domain further comprises finding in dependence upon the domain identification and in dependence upon the connection address, at least one email display capability status record for the domain, (Schwalm - Col. 1, lines 14-67; Col. 2, lines 1-15; & Claims 1-23), (Shaffer - Col. 6, lines 6-67 & Col. 7, lines 1-38), (Examiner again notes that Shaffer discloses wherein if an attachment does not need conversion, it is transmitted to the client/target. Moreover, Shaffer teaches a checking, determining and converting process, wherein the client does not intervene with the same, and wherein the client/target email display capability status attributes are determinative of the need for sender notification and/or conversion).

Thus, Claims 3, 10 & 17 are found to be unpatentable over considerable consideration of the teachings of Shaffer and Schwalm.

Conclusion

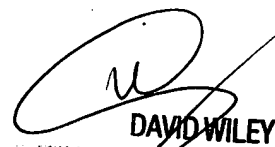
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arrienne M. Lezak whose telephone number is (571)-272-3916. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571)-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Arrienne M. Lezak
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